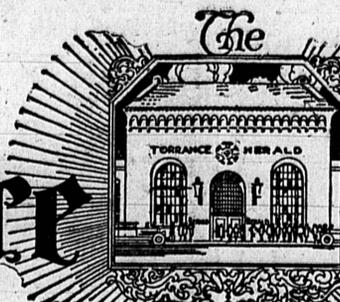


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and Lomita News

One
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Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS



SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 36

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1931

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CITY TAX LEVY SET AT 68-65 CENTS MON.

Increase of 12 Cents Caused By "Extras" Voted By Citizens Here

At an adjourned regular meeting Monday night, the city council passed its annual "emergency" ordinance creating the tax levy for 1931-32. The municipal tax rate set by the city fathers for the coming year is 68 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in Tax District No. 1, or in the original city limits, and 65 cents in annexed territory.

The new rate is 12 cents higher than last year because of the cost of the city's entry in the Metropolitan Water District, (\$17,000); and the creation of a fund for attorney's fees in connection with the litigation now pending over the publicly-owned water system bond issue, (\$5000).

According to the tax ordinance passed Monday night, the levy is divided:

- Advertising and promotion.....10
- General municipal fund.....55
- Bond, interest and redemption fund for bond issues affecting original city only.....03

Total.....68

There was no discussion of the city budget for the coming year when the subject of the adoption of the tax rate was proposed by Mayor John Dennis.

Members of the council are expected to complete the formation of the 1931-32 budget this week. Now that the rate has been set, it is believed that the council will have little difficulty in drawing up the city cost sheet.

L. A. Rate Fight On

Los Angeles' tax rate must be set Monday and a fight is now on in the city council as to whether the levy will be raised four cents to \$1.64, or remain the same as last year's rate of \$1.60.

County Levy Remains Same

A basic tax rate of 88 cents was virtually assured Los Angeles County yesterday when the supervisors adopted a budget which totaled \$59,564,570.30, which is \$110,945.02 more than last year.

Findley Won't Reveal Own Story

But Friends Tell City Attorney-Appointee's Colorful and Interesting History Without His Knowledge

It would be a difficult task to find any man who is better qualified to "hold down" the office of city attorney of any municipality than Charles Donald Findley of Torrance. That's a broad statement—but "Don" Findley has had the experience that should enable him to take over the city attorney job September 15 and thereafter conduct the legal affairs of this community with little difficulty.

Don Findley's story, as gleaned from his many friends, is one of the most interesting to come to the attention of the Herald.

Here are some highlights on this man's career:

He was an attorney in the famed law office of Root, Winthrop, Stimson—the first and last named lawyers being: Ethel Root, secretary of state in the McKinley and Roosevelt administrations, and Henry L. Stimson, present distinguished secretary of state, who was at that time, a junior partner in the firm.

He was a member of the coterie formed by George W. Wickersham (of the Wickersham Commission prominence); Henry W. Taft, brother of the former president; Cornelius Vanderbilt and Stimson. This group directed the activities of the 29th Assembly District in New York City from its headquarters in the famed Union League Club.

He was a follower of the mining boom in Goldfield, Rhyolite and other great "ghost cities" of Nevada in 1906.

He was a captain in the ordnance department during the World War.

Night School To Start Sept. 14; No Tuition Fees

Variety of Subjects Will Be Offered; Enroll At Once

Do you want to study economics, art, leather work, mathematics, millinery, Spanish, or do you want to get rid of those extra pounds, learn something about the family flier, make furniture or become a citizen of the United States? Then the Torrance Evening High school is the place for you Monday, Wednesday or Thursday nights beginning September 14. A wide variety of subjects will be offered without tuition charge by the faculty under the direction of Guy L. Mowry, principal of the evening classes.

Early registration is necessary in order to assure the teaching of the subjects because there must be at least 15 enrolled in any one subject to retain the class on the schedule. Full information concerning the subjects offered, time and other details may be had at the principal's office in the High school or by calling Mowry at his home.

List of Subjects Given

The Americanization of citizenship course for those who wish to become citizens starts Thursday, September 17, and both government and history will be taught in this class. If, after reading over the following list of subjects to be offered here free of charge, you would like to take up some other course of study, write, phone or call at the High school and state your preference. If enough residents enroll, it will be presented, Mowry said.

Here is a list of the subjects offered three nights a week at the High school beginning September 14: Auto shop, art, leather work, bookkeeping, calculating machine, citizenship-government, drawing and design, dressmaking, English, furniture construction, handicraft, machine shop, mathematics, millinery, physical education for young men, older men and ladies, pottery, printing, redcraft, sewing, shorthand, Spanish, typing, welding and woodwork.

SISTER OF CHICAGO MAYOR VISITS HERE THURSDAY

Mrs. P. T. Cadman, a sister of Mayor of Chicago, was expected to arrive here last week at the Plaza hotel, while visiting friends in Torrance. Efforts to learn the identity of Mrs. Cadman's local acquaintances were fruitless. She returned to Los Angeles Sunday.

Lomita Man Is Linked With Big Burglary Jobs

While Oldham, who gave his occupation as a mechanic, is only charged with burglarizing the Oil Fields Trucking Company warehouse, trucks and service station on South Arlington avenue near the railroad tracks, it is believed that county officers will prefer additional charges against him later.

Linked With Big Job He admitted the theft of a large new truck tire, vice and electric drill, the whole valued at \$250, from the local company, according to police, and declared he had a partner in his operations. He refused to name the accomplice, police said. The arrest was made by Constable T. A. R. Deputy Straight and local officers.

Oldham's arrest followed an investigation of a parked car, in which his wife was sitting, late Monday night by Officers Edwards and Schumacher. The car was near the Oil Fields Trucking location.

While Edwards was searching in the neighborhood for him, Oldham's wife was questioned by Schumacher. She said her husband had "walked up the road" and would be right back, but when Oldham saw Schumacher, he ran and escaped. The officers had previously obtained his address from Mrs. Oldham and when the trucking plant was found robbed, suspicion naturally turned to the Oldhams, police report.

The officers found a large quantity of allegedly-stolen equipment at Oldham's residence on Orange street. He had previously lived on Arizona street in Lomita.

County officers are attempting to link him with a burglary of the Superior Oil Company on the night of August 8, when equipment valued at \$737 was stolen. A number of the articles were found in Oldham's possession, according to deputy sheriffs.

MEETING DATE SET

The next meeting of the city council will be held Tuesday evening, September 1, at 7:45 o'clock.

LOCAL WOMAN IN CLARK JURY REVIEWS CASE

Believes Re-Trial Would Be Waste of Money; Tells Her Impressions

"A re-trial of the David H. Clark murder case would be a waste of the taxpayer's money."

"We tried to render an honest verdict. We believed we represented a cross-section of the entire county and knew we had a serious duty before us long before the case was put in our hands. I believe the result of our deliberations represents a majority of opinion throughout the county."

These were statements made Tuesday night by Mrs. Alice O. Thomas, forewoman of the jury which stood 11 to 1 for acquittal of the former deputy district attorney Sunday morning, at her home, 1028 Anapala avenue.

Lived Under Orders Obviously very tired from her 26-day experience in the jury box of the sensational Los Angeles murder case, Mrs. Thomas, nevertheless granted a Herald representative an interview which concerned her impressions of the widely publicized and discussed trial.

Strange as it may seem, Mrs. Thomas had nothing but praise for the newspaper folk who swarmed to the trial. Their courtesy was outstanding, she said, and at no time were the jurors hindered by overly-ambitious reporters.

"We had the best of everything. People and service we came in contact with were splendid to us. Of course we were guarded to the limit. It was the first time in my life that I have been told when to get up in the morning, when to go to work, when to eat and all the rest," the Torrance representative said.

(Continued on Page 4-A)

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Five-Day Holiday Follows Opening of School Monday

While vacation will come to an end and pupils of all ages will report to their classrooms here Monday morning, August 31, there will be only four and a half days of school next week. Because La Fiesta de Los Angeles will open on September 4, schools in the Los Angeles city school system, of which Torrance is a part, will be dismissed at noon on Friday. A holiday of five and a half days will follow and the children will reassemble to continue their school work on the morning of September 10, according to executives in the offices of the Board of Education.

Eighteen hundred children are expected to report at the local schools Monday morning. This figure includes the enrollment at the Junior-Senior High school, Elementary school, Fern Avenue and Walteria institutions.

Since Labor Day falls on Monday, September 7, and Admission Day on September 9, the Board of Education will recognize Tuesday, September 8, as La Fiesta Day. The early closing of the schools last June, in order to prepare for the National Education Association's convention in Los Angeles, necessitated the opening of the schools at an earlier date than is usual.

Last spring the closing registration at Torrance schools was reported: Junior-Senior High school, 580; Elementary, 961; Fern Avenue, 141; and Walteria, 132.

The High school faculty will be composed of: Herbert S. Wood, principal; Herbert Andrews, printing; Leonard Austin, auto shop; Florence Behr, library; Mabel Boynton, Spanish; James Burchett, electricity-sheet metal; William Burk, woodshop-mechanical drawing; Ethel Burham, English; Ada Chase, art; Helen Collier, cooking; Marjorie Eischen, music; Earl Field, athletics.

Lois Engel, geography-English-dramatics; Grace Granger, mathematics; Eva Jones, history; Marguerite Jones, commercial; Edith Kelly, journalism-English; Kathryn Klein, girls' physical education; Cora Mabe, history-mathematics; S. Egbert Merrill, agriculture; Katherine Miller, mathematics; Irene Mills, English; Grace Morse, Latin-English; Guy L. Mowry, chemistry; Ray Smith, athletics; Bernice Sumnerwell, art; Sara Vaubel, penmanship-spelling-typing; Francis Waddingham, science; Jessie Weaver, commercial; Mary Wilson, clothing; W. Stewart Wright, Spanish, and Stella Young, history.

Black Widow Seen By Local Mailmen

Beware the black widow! Mail carriers working in Torrance have reported to Postmaster Alfred Gourdier this week that they have found several spiders in mail boxes which they claim are of the deadly poisonous black widow species. The mailmen have told Gourdier that the insects bear on their backs the tell-tale red spot which identifies them as the fearsome insect.

Gourdier reports that three persons in California have died within recent months of bites from the black widow and urges all residents to be particularly careful where they place their hands in dark places. Children, especially, should be warned about the black widow and instructed not to play with any insect.

FIRE CHIEF'S PAY TO STOP AFTER FIRST

'Unnecessary Expense Must Be Eliminated,' Smith Says In Move

Hereafter no salary, other than the ordinary volunteer's compensation, will be paid a volunteer fire chief in Torrance.

A resolution offered by Councilman R. R. Smith at last Monday's council meeting and passed over the dissenting vote of Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, eliminates the \$50 a month salary being paid Fire Chief Ben Hannebrink after September 1. Smith stated that his reason for making the resolution was because the city must endeavor to cut out all unnecessary expenditures in the budget.

There are three regular paid men on the department who are qualified 24 hours of the day to take care of the volunteer chief's duties. We must consider the chief's past services with the city and are grateful to him but we must cut expenses," Smith declared.

Relief Society Has Supply of Clothes For City Children

Mothers whose children need outfitting for school may find some articles at the headquarters of the Torrance Relief Society, 1893 Cabrillo avenue, which may be had free of charge. The Society has a limited number of garments suitable for children's use, which will gladly be given to anyone who calls for them.

The Society also has a number of fruit jars on hand which are to be given away to anyone who is unable to purchase new ones.

County Center Said To Be Not Yet Lost

While the \$50,000 appropriation for the construction of the Torrance Health and Welfare Center was not specifically mentioned in the county budget adopted by the supervisors yesterday, those close to the situation believe that county authorities will find a means to finance the project and that the Center is not yet lost.

It was learned today that county authorities have not given up hope of establishing the project, which includes quarters for the Justice court, county library and constable's office, and that the three-acre site at Carson street and Plaza del Amo will yet be the location of county divisional offices.

NEW PASTOR COMING HERE FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. F. D. Nechling of Columbus, Ohio, will become pastor of the First Evangelical Lutheran church, corner of Acacia and Sonoma avenues, beginning October 5, it was learned today. Rev. Nechling will succeed Rev. G. H. Schuster of Inglewood, who has been pastor of the church for some time. It is reported that the new minister is expected to arrive here about the first of October.

BRINEY QUILTS JOB; FINDLEY IS SUCCESSOR

City Attorney For Decade Resigns; Effective September 15

Because the duties of a city attorney at the present time are so extensive and complicated as to require that officer to be in close touch with the city engineering department for the next year or until the Sepulveda boulevard project is under construction, Perry G. Briney, counselor to Torrance for the past decade and an original city officer, resigned from office Monday, his resignation to take effect September 15.

Briney's resignation was accepted by the council and, on motion by Councilman Carleton B. Bell, seconded by Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, Donald Findley was appointed city attorney. Findley, who is vice president and secretary of the Dominguez Land Company and has resided in Torrance for the past nine years, will be acting city attorney beginning Tuesday, September 1, and will be formally installed September 15.

Briney was allowed his customary two weeks vacation with pay from September 1 to 15.

The council passed a resolution commending Briney's long service with the city, he being appointed in 1921 at the first meeting of the original city council. The council's resolution follows:

The commendatory resolution to Briney had not yet been drafted by City Clerk Bartlett up to press time today.

Reasons for Resignation Briney's letter of resignation reads:

"In view of the fact that I find it impossible to take care of the great amount of work being caused and to be caused by the Sepulveda boulevard widening proceedings. (Continued on Page 6-A)

22 Boy Scouts On 'Gypsy Trip' Through South

Enter Mexico After Stops At Lakes In San Diego Co.

Twenty-two Boy Scouts—members of Troop No. 4, sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis club—are gypsying down through the Southern California lake region and will cross the border and enter Mexico some time today.

They started on their gypsy trip early Tuesday morning. Scoutmaster Frank Steinhilber, assisted by Harold Clark, is conducting the boys on their junket. The trip will include such points of interest as Lake Elsinore, Henshaw Lake, Cuyamaca Lake, Morona Dam, Barrett Lakes, San Diego, and Mexico. They will return Saturday evening.

All but four members of the troop are on this excursion. Paul and Murray, Dodge Brothers dealer here, donated the use of a truck which is carrying the troop's camping equipment, supplies and dunnage. Steinhilber is conducting the five-day trip, which includes swimming, exploring, bass and perch fishing for all boys, at the small cost of \$3 per boy.

Citizens Asked to Attend Water Meet

All residents of Torrance and vicinity are cordially invited to attend an open meeting of the Knights of Pythias tonight, Thursday, at the American Legion clubhouse when the Metropolitan Water District and the Metropolitan Aqueduct bond issue will be discussed in detail by Walter Sylvester Hertzog, Jr., member of the Citizens' Colorado River Water Committee.

Because of the great issue at stake September 29, when Torrance and 11 other cities will vote on a \$220,000,000 bond issue, it is hoped that a large attendance will hear Hertzog, Jr., member of the Citizens' Colorado River Water Committee.

CITY ACQUIRES LIGHTS

Fifteen street lights in the Hollywood Riviera district became the charge of the city of Torrance by resolution Monday and hereafter the city will pay for their illumination at the rate of \$1.55 each.

Auto, Liquor and Marriage Forbid Fortin 10 Years

Local Boy Given Unusual Probation Term Saturday

On condition that he abstain from drinking liquor, driving an automobile and marrying for a period of ten years, and that he also pay \$2500 to the father of the 14-year-old Lomita boy he killed, and go to jail for 18 months, Lloyd Fortin, 20, convicted hit-and-run driver, was granted probation Saturday by Superior Judge W. T. O'Donnell.

Fortin, who resided with his parents at 829 Portola avenue, had been found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced from one to 10 years imprisonment. Testimony produced at his trial showed that he had run down and killed Kendall Mucklow, 14, of Lomita, May 9, leaving the boy lying in the road and dragging his wrecked bicycle for a quarter of a mile.

Placed On Road Crew If Fortin violates the terms of his unusual 10-year probation his original sentence will be invoked, according to the court. Fortin was connected with the crime by the discovery of a small piece of glass, found at the crash scene, which fitted perfectly into a shattered head lamp on his car.

Judge O'Donnell ordered that during his jail term, Fortin be assigned to the county road camp and that his earnings there be applied on the \$2500 which is to go to the support of the Mucklow boy's elderly widowed father.

ARSON PROBE DEVELOPS NO RESULTS YET

Authorities Are Still On Investigation of Factory Fire

No new developments were reported by local police this week in connection with the suspected incendiary fire that almost totally destroyed the Torrance Manufacturing plant on South Arlington Avenue on the night of August 15.

The investigation will continue, however, by both the Torrance authorities and the sheriff's office. A former employe of the concern is said by both police and officials of the plant to be under suspicion for the asserted arson job.

A letter, expressing appreciation for the "excellent work done by the Torrance fire department in its effort to save the plant," was received by the department this week from A. E. Petremont, partner in the enterprise.

"Saving of the books and records alone will be of inestimable value to us in the re-establishment of the business," Petremont wrote, "because of the fact that our accounts are numerous and widely scattered. A loss of the records would have left things in a hopelessly garbled mess." The concern is temporarily located in the Blackwell & Sundt oil tool shop at 3012 Carson street.

Drum Corps In Big Contest Monday

Newly-Outfitted Organization To Compete Against 40 Other Corps At Long Beach For State Honors

"Zero-hour" for the local Legion Drum and Bugle corps will be 8:30 a. m. Monday, August 31, because at that time the organization will enter the preliminary contests to decide the championship American Legion drum and bugle corps of the state of California. More than 40 corps are expected to enter Polytechnic High school, 17th and Atlantic streets, Monday morning in the preliminary competition.

During the remainder of this week, the Bert S. Crossland post will complete its training in march formations and music practices. A crowd of about 500 local residents watched the corps parade in their new dress uniforms Saturday night. Many expressions of approval were heard during the half-hour exhibition drill from the Legion clubhouse to and at the square in front of the Pacific Electric station.

The grand parade of Legionnaires, Auxiliary units, drum corps, bands and floats will be held at Long Beach next Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The local corps will be in the line of march as will the Torrance American Legion Auxiliary.

Gates will be opened at 5:45 p. m. Monday at Burcham Field, Long Beach, for the final exhibition for prizes in Auxiliary drills, Legion post drills, drum corps and band presentations. The Auxiliary units participating in the final

WHAT'S WHAT ON SCHOOL TO BE FOUND OUT

Erection of Fern Ave. Bldg. May Be Completed Yet This Year

When the Chamber of Commerce Educational committee calls at the office of the Board of Education next Monday night to learn what's what on the local school situation, they may find that one of the objectives of their visit has vanished—and still again, they may not.

The committee will meet with the Los Angeles city school board to learn why all work toward the early construction of the Fern Avenue school has been stopped; the exact stand of the board on the proposed charter for Torrance—with regard to the reported automatic separation of local schools from the Los Angeles system if the charter is adopted; and perhaps the board will give the local committee a report on the chamber's request that all teachers live in Torrance during this school year.

Report "Halt" Order Revoked If the report received by the Herald this week is true, then the question of constructing the \$34,000 Fern Avenue school this year has been settled and the Board of Education will announce to the chamber's Educational committee that plans for the new structure will be ready for contractor's next week.

A local resident told the Herald Tuesday that he interviewed several members of the Board of Education in regard to the reported halting of all work on the Fern Avenue school and had learned that the school authorities had revoked the "stop" order and instructed the business manager of the school system to issue the plans to bidding contractors some time next week.

The Board of Education last week stopped further work on the Fern Avenue school project because County Counsel Mattoon had submitted an opinion which declared that if Torrance adopted a city charter, such action would automatically divorce local schools from the Los Angeles system and that Torrance's share in the bonded indebtedness to date would be charged against the city. The school authorities ostensibly halted work on the new school plans until the charter had either been ratified by the people and the State Legislature, as required by law, or rejected by a vote of Torrance citizens.

Why School Is Wanted Members of the Educational committee will be prepared to give a number of reasons why the \$34,000 school structure, which is to replace present bungalow buildings on Fern avenue, should be constructed this year.

Among these reasons are: That Torrance has a large excess payment in the coffers of the Los Angeles school system.

(Continued from Page 2-A)

Following the Auxiliaries maneuvers the bands who will have successfully "made the grade" in the morning's preliminary contests, will take the field in the competition. The drum corps who qualified will follow the bands and engage in the contest to decide which organization wins state honors and the chance to compete against the best corps from all over the nation at the Detroit national convention.

Admission to Burcham Field, where the final contests will be staged Monday evening will be 50 cents per person, which admits the ticket holder to all finals. The parade Monday afternoon will be one of the most spectacular ever seen in Southern California. The "grand show" will be composed of 15,000 marchers, 2000 sailors, 500 Marines, army presentation of infantry, artillery anti-aircraft and motorized equipment; 50 non-musical uniformed bodies and over

(Continued on Page 6-A)